REMARKS

The claims have been amended for clarity and in order to conform to applicants' election.

Consideration on the merits is now requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. <u>511582003500</u>.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

December 18, 2002

Bv

Kate H. Murashige

Registration No. 29,959

Morrison & Foerster LLP 3811 Valley Centre Drive,

Suite 500

San Diego, California 92130-2332

Telephone: (858) 720-5112 Facsimile: (858) 720-5125